

GARS News

Gars News is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art. Articles and submissions are invited and encouraged. If possible, submit *News* items in ASCII format by posting a private message to Dean Matthews on the *GARS* conference of the Scientific Atlanta BBS (903-5487), then use the Save Attached save command, which will prompt you to upload your ASCII file. Contact the Editor for odd format compatibility, or other means of transfer. Deadline for article submissions is the first Thursday of each month.

The *GARS* address is:

GWINNETT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 88
LILBURN, GA 30226

GARS OFFICERS FOR 1994-1995

President:	W4NVF Howard Gould	921-8362
Vice President:	KD4QFD Larry Osborne	972-1185
Secretary:	KE4GYM Ike Chapman	339-8123
Treasurer:	WA4QYY Charles Evans	448-0930
Activities Mgr:	KA4KKF David Adcock	963-5767
News Editor:	AD4OD Dean Matthews	962-8941
License Trustee:	KO4ZS Paul Bennett	206-0215

GARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

W4WKP Johnny Fearon	466-4038
KD4EHG Buddy Dowdell	476-1616
KD4HMC Sam Roundtree	921-7423
W4NZJ Jud Whatley	972-1940

COMMITTEES

REPEATER:

Chairman:	Howard Gould, W4NVF	921-8362
K4KAZ	Fred Runkle	945-6356
KA4EMV	Robert DeVeau	923-3963
WA4JXN	Richard Barnes	972-7248
KD4SIL	George Neville	963-0705
KD4KCR	Duane Hansen	962-6086
KE4EIH	Bill Ahs	279-7044

MEMBERSHIP: KE4EMA Jack Herndon 995-0438
PUBLICITY: AD4PZ Joe Biddle 963-4316
FIELD DAY: KD4VHG John Scott 978-0995
HAM CLASSES: KA9VUE Steve Idler 513-0428

GARS ASSOCIATED MEDIA

GARS 2 Meter FM repeater 147.075 ^{MHz}
 GARS Conference in Sci-Alt phone BBS 903-5487
 WA4IOB 6 Meter Beacon at 50.075 ^{MHz}
 WD4JXR-6 / SNELLV Packet Node/Digipeater 147.03 ^{MHz}

SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET

Tuesdays at 8:00PM on the *GARS* Repeater. 147.075 ^{MHz}

MORSE CODE PRACTICE

An Interactive Morse Code practice session immediately follows the 8:00P.M. Tuesday night net on the *GARS* repeater, and on Thursdays at 9:00P.M..

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Membership dues for the 1994-1995 were due April 1st. Don't wait! Send them in right away to the *GARS* address listed above.

\$25.00 for Individual Memberships
 \$35.00 for Family Memberships

GARS W5YI-VEC TEST SESSION

4th Friday at St. John Neumann Church - 801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trlckum Road, Lilburn. Contact Howard Gould, W4NVF at 921-8362. Walk-In Exams - Headphones!

GARS News EDITOR

Dean Matthews, AD4OD
 Editors Desk: 962-8941 Fax:339-1394

GARS NEWS is created on a MCC "clone" 486/DX2-66 computer running Lotus AM! Pro Word Processor for Windows under MSDOS 6.2 and Windows for Workgroups 3.11. The master copy is printed on a Canon LBP-4 Laser Beam printer and photocopied.

Articles may be reproduced by other amateur club newsletters provided proper credit is given to the individual author and to *GARS News*.

QUA

1st Tuesday,

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Odd numbered months at Morrison's on Jimmy Carter Blvd at 7:30PM; Even numbered months at the Southern Bell Center at 12:00 Noon 145.41-

1st Wednesday - HamWatch

Shoney's 11690 Alpharetta Hwy., Roswell (about 2 1/2 miles North of Holcomb Bridge Rd across from North Fulton Hospital) Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting is at 7:30 PM

1st Thursday

N.E. Georgia Amateur Radio Club

Jefferson Civic Center, off Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson. Dinner at 6:15. meeting is at 7:00PM. TI-147.225+

1st Thursday - Atlanta Radio Club

Days Inn at I-285 and Roswell Rd. Dinner at Old Hickory House at 6:00PM. Meeting is at 7:30PM TI-145.82-

2nd Wednesday

North Fulton Radio League

Cherokee Cattle Company, 11208 Alpharetta Hwy. Dinner at 6:00PM. Meeting at 7:30PM TI-145.47-

2nd Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. TI-146.76-

2nd Saturday

East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. TI-145.41-

3rd Tuesday - Hamwatch

Shoney's 1949 Mountain Industrial Blvd, Tucker (Just North of Hwy. 78) Times: 6:30 PM for dinner prior to meeting. Meeting is at 7:30 PM.

3rd Thursday

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Red Cross Building, Hi-Hope Rd off Hwy 316 in Lawrenceville. Fellowship dinner at Shoney's on Hwy 120, South of 316 at 6:00PM. Meeting is at 7:30PM

LET'S ALL GO

to

FORT YARGO!

by Tammi Ford, KE4IKK

Our club picnic is scheduled for July 16th (that's the third Saturday in July) at Fort Yargo State Park in Winder Ga.. Fort Yargo is known for its recreational and historic opportunities.

Boating, fishing and swimming are welcome in the lake, and there is a campground available with tent and trailer sites (the three cottages are reserved for handicapped individuals only.) There is a playground and some hiking trails. It sounds easy to find by going straight up Hwy. 29 to Winder and following the signs. For further information regarding the park, you may contact them at 404/867-3489. If you wish to camp out be advised that there are only 34 campsites.

We have reserved Group Shelter A, which is at the swimming beach, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on that day. It's a BYOF (which means to bring your own food) to simplify matters. There are grills and picnic tables available at the pavilion. Brian Ford, KC4LYS is organizing a fox hunt, so catch him on the radio or give him a call at home at 822-1749 for information or to offer assistance.

I am also looking for folks to bring some sporting equipment; softball stuff, badminton stuff, volleyball stuff, etc. If you have some 'stuff' you can bring, please plan to do so and let me know. The park also has tennis courts.

This is a great chance for us all to have some fun together, make new friends and appreciate the company of the 'established' ones (I don't like calling them old friends!)

If anyone is interested in offering a demonstration of some nifty radio thingamajig, or you want to participate in a radio relay, etc., speak with Brian or me and we will work with you to get it organized. Let's all get together on the 16th of July and have a great time!

Please RSVP. to Tammi at 822-1749 or on the *GARS* repeater. ♦

(Ham-of-the-Month from p1)

determines who uses what park on which weekends. Lo and behold, we have a shelter in the park for field day.

Steve will never tell you this sort of thing, he is very quiet and modest, but Steve has truly been and, I am sure will continue to be, a very helpful GARS member in many ways.

His main interest in amateur radio is ragchewing, but he likes to do it with his hands rather than with his mouth. I guess that is why we don't hear much of him on the repeater, he just pops in and pops out.

Steve lives with his wife, Caroline, in Lawrenceville and she seems to tolerate ham radio pretty well.

Steve is also an excellent carpenter, and has built two beautiful covered decks onto his home and a beautiful cedar chest among other things. He also builds and sells lovely wind chimes, and has designed and built a home-brew CW key. He recently built a jig that he uses to solder on his own PL-259 connectors.

We salute Steve, AD4LY, our GARS featured Ham of the Month.

Many of Steve's projects and accomplishments are quite unique when you realize that Steve has to see with his hands alone. -ED. ♦

**GARS NET
SETS
CHECK-IN RECORD**
by 84-Odie

The Tuesday night GARS Swap, Wanted and Information Net had a record number of check-ins, and some excitement. Jay, KE4FJV was net control until his son pulled his elbow out of the socket and had to be rushed to the doctor. We hope all is well with child.

Howie, W4NVF jumped in and helped out until Ike, KE4GYM our regular net control could take over and finish the net. By the time the net was over, we had 31 check-ins, including areas we haven't heard from before.

Everyone tune in and join us for this informal gathering of friends, Tuesdays at 8:00 P.M. on the GARS Repeater on 147.075+. ♦

GARS Club Meeting Minutes from 5/19/94

In attendance: Howie Gould, W4NVF, President
Larry Osborne, KD4QFD, Vice President
Ike Chapman, KE4GYM, Secretary
Charles Evans, WA4QYY, Treasurer
David Adcock, KA4KKF, Activities Manager
Dean Matthews, AD4OD, Newsletter Editor

The meeting was called to order by President Gould at 19:43 local time. All members and visitors were invited by Howie to introduce themselves, there were 44 members and 14 visitors attending for a total of 58 in attendance.

David, KA4KKF, presented the program for the evening. Fred, K4KAZ, gave a presentation on PL including the history of PL and its present uses in amateur radio. John, KD4VHG, headed up a panel discussion on the upcoming GARS Field Day with Pickett, AD4S, and Duane, KD4KCR serving on the panel as well.

John announced that the GARS Field Day site is at Rhodes Jordan Park in Lawrenceville and asked for volunteers for operators and equipment. Pickett is going to be coordinating the logging for Field Day and gave a brief explanation of what he will be doing for logging. Duane talked about antennas and the rigs that would be used for Field Day.

During the discussion about Field Day, a question was posed about what call would be used, WD4JXR or someone's call. Pickett volunteered to let the club use his call, AD4S. A motion was made and seconded to use AD4S for the GARS Field Day call. The motion passed without opposition.

The business meeting resumed after a break and Howie thanked Dave, AD2Q, and all those that worked with Dave for their effort at the Hog Mountain bike race. Howie recognized Vince, KE4DYY, and Vince Jr., KE4DYX for helping him attack the grass at the Snellville repeater site. Howie thanked Dennis, KE4IKO, and Bob, KD4VHW, for their work at the main repeater shack repainting the building and cutting the grass. Howie also pointed out the GARS sign that was at the entrance to the Red Cross building made by Larry, KD4QFD, and Jay, WA4BXA.

Howie made a motion that the minutes would be accepted as published in the newsletter with exceptions unless there was objection from the membership. There were no objections and the minutes were accepted.

Charles, WA4QYY, gave the treasurers report. As part of his report Charles said that he had set a target of \$6200.00 in the combined general fund and repeater fund before he would recommend purchase of the new repeater and he announced that GARS was currently \$162.00 over that amount.

After a brief celebration, Howie announced that the repeater would be ordered on Friday (5/20) morning. In response to questions from the floor, Howie said that Kendecom would order the crystals as soon as they received the check for the deposit and the repeater would be ready for shipment in approximately 45 days. A motion was made and seconded from the floor that the order be sent via overnight express, this motion passed without opposition.

Jack, KE4EMA, presented nine (9) applications for membership, all applications were accepted without opposition. Accepted for membership were: Charles "Pat" Kelley, KE4IKC (T) Rickey L. Morris, KD4VOJ (T+) David M. Livesay, KA8BYA (AE) Bob Laine, AD4DQ (E) Art Driggers, N4JK (E) Ralph Matchette, KE4IHD (T) Edward A. Barnes, KE4CJD (T) Marty Fowler, waiting (T) Kevin S. Breene, N4MIZ (T+).

Joe, AD4PZ, pointed out the display of photos on the wall from the Rookie Radio packet demonstration and the Sam's Club demonstration. Joe also reported that he gathering newsletter articles and sending them to QST for possible publication.

Minutes - continued on p.4.

Below 2 Meters Your World Gets Bigger

by Larry Osborne, KD4QFD

I remember that lonnnnnng wait for that No-Code Technician ticket. For Pete's sake, it really did take 12 weeks! Able at last to talk to new friends around the entire Atlanta area in true FM High fidelity! And it is something I still enjoy.

But I kept hearing of the marvels and fun available on that thin called HF.

Well, the bug bit, and 6 months later with the 13 word code test (yuck) under my belt along with the written General and Advanced tests, it was time to pick up a bigger microphone and at least scratch the surface of the world of HF. Sorry, but many know of my feelings about "hear and spell" (CW).

There are all kinds of crazy things - like HF packet, fax, RTTY, and even sending pictures - none of which I have tried - *that is a challenge for those who have tried those mediums to write an article.*

The normal modes are CW and phone (ah, that beloved microphone). So, what can you say when you get on HF? After you get past the normal exchanges of radio and antenna types, signal reports, and names, then what?

Here is where we get into the two types of operation I spend my time in - DX and ragchews, and they are not necessarily **mutually exclusive**.

The best ragchews are ones where you ask questions and really hear the responses. A small walk through my log has notes about - KD7PZ, who lives near the turner ranch in Montana and powers his rig with solar energy - VO1DAV, who is in the Canadian Navy and works with underwater acoustics - W1NDI, who had an illustrious career and a wife who wrote a book on the Bedford Church in the 1600's (great stuff for history buffs!) - VE1DXR, who is a reporter for the CBC - VE3KCL, a new ham at age 13 sent me a QSL card on the back of a Snoopy postcard

(CONTINUED P. 5)

Minutes - continued from p. 3.

Dean, AD4OD, thanked everyone for contributing to the newsletter saying that he did not have to write a single article for this issue and that he already had several articles for the next newsletter. Dean encouraged everyone to keep participating in writing for the newsletter. Dean thanked Joe, AD4PZ, for scanning the pictures for the newsletter. Now that the capability for getting graphics and pictures into the newsletter exists Dean reminded everyone that might be interested, or know someone interested that the GARS newsletter will accept ads.

Howie announced that Don, KE4GGP, is handling QSL cards for sending to bureaus and for WAS.

Cheryl, KE4JKM, reminded everyone of Howie Lab this Saturday, 5/21 at Howie's house. Cheryl also reported that she had discussed the formation of a CW class with several people but so far no definite plans had been formed.

Fred, K4KAZ, donated a GARS shirt to the club which was auctioned off by Howie for \$6.00.

Howie reported that he had been in touch with Jerry Metcalf concerning the bike race coming up on September 24. Charles, WA4QYY, will head up the team of operators providing communications for the race and any interested volunteers should contact Charles for further information. Howie also said that Jerry Metcalf has offered to raffle off the bike donated to GARS last year and Jerry feels that he will get \$200.00 for the bike. Charles, WA4QYY, had inquired about purchasing the bike for that amount after looking at the bike. There was no opposition to Charles' request.

The proposed amendment to the bylaws concerning the board of directors was read by the secretary. A motion was made and seconded that the amendment be accepted as read. After a period of discussion on whether a director replacing one of the past Presidents should be confirmed by the executive committee or by the membership the motion was called for a vote. The vote to accept the amendment as read was to the affirmative.

The proposed amendment to the bylaws concerning the number of officers was read by the secretary. A motion was made and seconded that the amendment be accepted as read. After calling for discussion and hearing none the amendment was called to a vote. The vote to accept the amendment as read was to the affirmative.

The proposed amendment to the bylaws concerning lifetime membership was read by the secretary. A motion was made and seconded that the amendment be accepted as read. After a period of discussion the motion was changed that the amendment be accepted as read with the change "a one time monetary payment". The amended motion was seconded and called to a vote. The vote to accept the amendment as modified was to the affirmative without opposition.

The proposed amendment to the bylaws concerning honorary lifetime memberships was read by the secretary. A motion was made and seconded that the amendment be accepted as read. After a discussion on the clause (B.3.7) that a member cannot be resubmitted for twenty-four (24) months the amendment was called to a vote. The vote to accept the amendment as read was to the affirmative without opposition.

Howie then asked for new business. Ike, KE4GYM, encouraged all GARS members and visitors to check into the GARS weekly net at 20:00 local on Tuesday nights. Participation in the net has continued to grow since the change in format and Johnny, W4WKP, and Jay, KE4FJV, will be sharing net control duties with Ike.

Rick, KD4VOJ, still needs four to six volunteers to help with the Memorial Day parade in Dacula. David, KA4KKF, read from a letter that GARS received from SciTrek concerning the STARS amateur radio station located in SciTrek. They are asking all metro Atlanta clubs to participate in staffing the station and have asked that GARS do so on the third Sunday and fourth Thursday of each month beginning in June. David asked for anyone interested to contact him for further information.

John Sokol, KE4KPV, announced that he is looking for operators to provide communications for the Georgia State Games that will be held in the Georgia Tech campus and other locations in the state on July 16 through 19. John will get further information to Dean and Howie for anyone interested in volunteering.

Tammy, KE4IKK, announced that the GARS picnic would be held on Saturday, July 18 at Fort Yargo State Park. Tammy is looking for volunteers to set up a fox hunt for the picnic.

The meeting was adjourned by President Gould at 22:30 local time.

(Below 10 Meters, Continued)

-A35CT, who is church caretaker on the kingdom of Tonga (go get your atlas) - ZD7SM, Maggie who lives on an island where napoleon was exiled - KI5TR, who repairs and plays enormous pipe organs..... so, get my drift? Whatever you want, you will find it all over the country and the world - cooking, geology, astronomy - every interest.

I talked to one guy in the Mojave desert who did not have an air conditioner for his house, but the temperature stayed around 74 degrees (ask me if you want to know how he did it, and he did not live underground). Ragchews are possible, even with DX stations.

The other kind of HF voice work is "the hunt" - always listening, listening, listening to exchange signal reports with that rare (for you) country, culminating in the exchange of the traditional and coveted QSL card. You can get a kick working New Caledonia and Hong Kong on 100 watts!

Just as an example, what can you do after you get the basic equipment and the license? After 15 months on HF, KD4QFD has worked 180 countries, confirmed 114, and worked all the states and had some real interesting and pleasant conversations along the way.

Now, lest the CW people rope me to a chair and put headphones on me and play endless code tapes, some of my best friends are CW freaks! A good friend AF4Y, gets this look of serene bliss on his face as he goes into a trace and pounds out his cone QSO's. The hobby has room for all.

If you do not care what Gary is doing in the Gambia to improve water quality, that is OK. How would you like to talk to other folks around the USA about your favorite topic, or maybe stumble upon a new interest? It is all waiting for you on the HF bands.

Hopefully, others will pick up the challenge and write about RTTY, fax, etc. to enable many of ways to broaden our horizons.

If you still want to confine yourself to 2 meters - fine - we are glad to have you in the hobby, and glad to have you in the club, because we can talk to you on the 144 mHz band. ♦

The PRESIDENT'S PEN by Howard Gould, W4NVF

Well we have had a very exciting month and I am pleased to report that the club has made great moves in the direction of civic events, Field Day, By-laws, and most important of all a new repeater.

The Hog Mountain bike race was a success I am told with David, AD2Q doing a bang up job of recruiting plenty of hams for the coverage.

Those hams who were at the scene and helping out were, Dave AD2Q, Pickett AD4S, Dean AD4OD, Jim KC4YBQ, Pat KE4IKC, Jim KE4KHV, Dave KD4PCK, Charles WA4QYY, Bob WB4ABE, Ike KE4GYM, Cheryl KE4JKM, Jay WA4BXA, and Jean KA4BNG.

The Snellville parade was covered with excellent results with the following hams attending: Cheryl KE4JKM, Ike KE4GYM, Don KE4GGP, Larry KD4QFD, Bill KE4EIH and Howie W4NVF.

GARS also was on the upswing with the Dacula Memorial Day Parade and the following hams were in attendance pitching in: Rick KD4VOJ, Dave KA8BYA, Dean KD4ZEN, Paul KM4WT, Jack KE4EMA, Bill KE4EIH, John KE4HPV, Dave KA4KKF and Ike KE4GYM.

All those GARS members who participated in these events should be proud of being part of a communications team that has proven to be an asset to the communities around us. We also thank those hams who were not GARS members and hope that they will join us at our next meeting and possibly become new GARS members.

Of course Field Day is upon us and we need to see that the club has plenty of operators and equipment there to see the weekend through, Duane KD4KCR and John KD4VHG are the team you need to contact for volunteering your help.

Jim Thomas WB4HCV has advised me that the proclamation for Gwinnett Amateur Radio week has been finalized

by him and a tentative date of June 7th was being set for the signing by the Chairman of the board of commissioners Mr. Wayne Hill at their afternoon session at 2PM. We have been announcing this on the weekly net in the hopes that we could get the word out in time as this newsletter will be after the fact. We will have a copy of this available for printing in the next newsletter if there is room for it or available at our next meeting.

I have been informed by our club secretary that we have approximately 72 renewals and 10 new members for a rough estimate of 82 memberships (93 members including family members -ED.). We may possibly pick up 20 more renewals to round off at 100 members but this is only speculative at this writing.

Without the support of the existing renewals and their donations to the repeater fund we would not be in a position to purchase the new repeater. We will have to watch our general funds and push harder for new members so we can finish this fiscal year in the black.

We had roughly \$6200.00 at the close of the last meeting and with a little over \$4000.00 earmarked for the new repeater purchase it leaves the general fund dangerously low. Our operating expenses are phone and electric and generally run between \$2500. and \$2800 including misc. expenses.

So you can see the importance of keeping our membership up otherwise we will have to find ways to raise funds in order to keep the club solvent. I believe we have many members out there who just forgot to renew when April 1st rolls around, and we would like to make it easy for them to remember by sending out bills to all members come next renewal time. We all get bills for one thing or another and we are reminded to send in payment by those notices.

The club renewal should be no different. Autopatch privileges and Newsletters should be removed from those who do not renew by the April 1st

deadline, though those members would be in good standing under the existing bylaws until June 1st.

I am very pleased with the positive things we are doing as a club. We are getting out into the communities working with each other and learning from each other and the more we mix it up, the better it gets. Believe it or not the word is spreading around metro Atlanta about our activities and other clubs are showing interest in our programs.

Thanks to everyone of you who are getting involved old timer and newcomer alike it, is a great thing to be a ham radio operator where we can communicate with the whole world and with each other locally.

It is so much easier to share your experiences with your local ham friend than with someone across the wide oceans, although that QSL card from overseas does look good and would make a good conversation piece. But when you need help with your antenna, rig, computer, or any other question answered, it sure is nice to be able to pick up the phone or dial up the repeater for help and have it within reach.

The more we exchange viewpoints and conversation with each other, the more of a family we become. There is one sure thing though and that is no matter how much we may have learned about this hobby, if we don't share it with others, we are missing a great opportunity to increase the knowledge within the minds of others who will pay you back tenfold with their appreciation for your helping hand.

DEFILED DEFINITION:

DOPPLER EFFECT

by 84-Odie

This term defines the fact that no matter how many spare nuts and bolts you take up to the tower with you, you will drop at least one for which you have no spare, either with you or on site. Though it will undoubtedly hit squarely on the head the one helper who is not wearing a hard-hat, it will not be found, requiring an additional trip to the hardware store tomorrow, as it is bound to be closed already.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for 1994 GEORGIA STATE GAMES

The Georgia State Games are a precursor to the Olympics, where amateur athletes from all over the state try to win a spot on the U.S. Olympic team.

Ham volunteers are needed to provide communications at venues all around the metro area on July 21 - 25, 1994. Areas involved include but are not limited to downtown, Smyrna, East Point, Decatur, Piedmont Park, Hogansville, Marietta, Conyers, Stone Mountain, Dawsonville, Ga Tech, GSU, Palmetto, and Douglasville.

You may be able to work in a venue located conveniently to you. A Technician license and 2 meter HT, and the willingness to help out are all that are generally required to participate in events such as these.

Contact John Sokol, KE4KPV at work (564-7434) or home (931-3235) if you would like more information about helping with these events.

The weekly net is growing with 31 check-ins recently. Jay KE4FJV picked up net control one evening for the first time and was doing a very fine job when he had an emergency with his young son David who had fallen and popped an elbow which called him away quickly to rush him to the hospital. This happened at this writing so we do wish Jay all the best for his son. It also proved why we need an alternate net control. It is so much easier to bring continuity to the net in case the regular net control has to leave in a hurry. In this case, Ike KE4GYM was ready to take over. I had set myself up as alternate for Jay and had the whole list in case I was needed, but with volunteers like Ike, and even Johnny W4WKP ready to pick up the net how can you go wrong?

We need more volunteers so don't be shy. It's a great chance to learn something and I promise you no one will laugh at you. There will always be someone on

frequency to help you just as there was this night.

Duane KD4KCR, is doing one bang up job with the CW net with the assistance of Steve AD4LY. I have heard good comments on the air as well as off the air about the great need for this practice net. We are getting check-ins from all over metro Atlanta. As long as there is a need and volunteers to run the code practice net, we need to give our full support to it.

Duane also helps members in need with putting up antennas and helping them with just about anything and I am sure he is receiving many a grateful thank you from those he helps. Let me add one more Duane, thanks from GARS your goodwill goes a long way with all of us.

Johnny W4WKP, has been assigned as an assistant Public Relations officer to work with Joe AD4PZ, and he is just rolling along with all kinds of input. Between the two of them we will be exposed to many more media than we realize is out there. Johnny also writes the Ham Of The Month, and I understand that Joe has a few tricks up his sleeve to add to it. I think they will make a great pair working together for GARS.

I am looking forward to our Ft Yargo outing on July 16th, Tammi KE4IKK and Jean KA4BNG, are heading up the committee to see that we all

have a good time. Contact them with any ideas you may have. I also understand that Brian KC4LYS, is putting together a Fox Hunt for us to have fun with. Brian is the OM of Tammi and besides being hitched they are raising a small brood of future hams? A lot of our GARS members are like them sharing their time and efforts so others can have some fun.

Ike KE4GYM, has done a great job on the GARS banner that you all saw at the last meeting. He is a man of many talents and a great asset to GARS. Ike supports us in many ways besides being a Secretary. He is deeply involved and since he has a family to take care of as well, he sure comes through in the pinches. Thanks Ike from all of us at GARS.

We also thank Dean AD4OD, David KA4KKF, Larry KD4QFD, Charles WA4QYY, Jack KE4EMA, and Joe AD4PZ without whose support and trying patience we would not have been able to deliver a positive program for all the members to enjoy. We have as a team provided the members with their support, a new repeater that will last for many, many, years and some new by-laws that will provide direction for the future of GARS.

We also have to thank all those original members of GARS who started the club with pennies and supported it throughout the years for without their foresight and planning we would not be at this place in time to show them our appreciation for all they have done for GARS.

Well I must finish this or Dean will go nuts trying to find room for it all. I hope I haven't bored you all to death or slighted anyone. I love you all, you are a fine group of hams who make my job pleasant to do. I would be crazy to think that I can win them all, that is not my intent as your President.

Let me know what you want out of GARS. Call me, catch me at home or on the machine (alias the repeater). You can even write me if you wish, but you have to promise me something, leave out personalities. 73 ,

Howie W4NVF -

A Not Very Funny Production ♦

JOINING NETS and ROUNDTABLES

by Dean Matthews, AD4OD

You finally get a night set aside to play HF, have got your 80 meter dipole up and ready, and your new Keasukit DX-5000 has been sitting on the table patiently awaiting your license to come. You tune around the band, find some guys talking that you can here well, and so you call them. You get blasted! These people shoo you off like you have a disease. Why?

You feel let down, after all hams are supposed to be friendly, aren't they? You are ready to sell the rig and take up needle-point.

Chances are, this was probably preventable. You may have innocently committed some gross "faux pas" to their group. How were you to know? What to do? Read on!

There are primarily two types of groups on HF, Nets and Roundtables, and they are quite different.

Nets are typically structured, with a Net Control operator who handles check-ins and assigns whose turn it is to talk next. Most are organized for some specific purpose. It is your responsibility to figure out their purpose, and whether you might "qualify" to talk to them.

One example of a net is MARCO. Listening to them you will hear stations from all over... perfect for a little DX or to see where your new antenna is radiating. But if you listen long enough you will find out that MARCO stand for Medical Amateur Radio Council, and is open only to people in the medical profession to exchange medical information on a world-wide basis. Hardly a group to break in on and ask if your new rig is "getting out".

Listen, listen, listen. That is the key to finding a group that you have a common interest with. That is what you are looking for, isn't it? The ARRL publishes a Net Directory, in which you can look up a net (and some roundtables) and find out a group's regular meeting times, and often its purpose. Unfortu-

nately, if a group doesn't send in its information, it won't be in the book.

The other common type of group found on HF is the roundtable. Roundtables are typically a much less structured bunch, though they do often have a leader and rules, they usually have no net control. They are typically groups of

BYLAW CHANGES AVAILABLE

by Dean Matthews, AD4OD - Editor

All of the by-laws published in last months GARS News were accepted by the membership at the May meeting with a minor word clarification or two.

Ike, KE4GYM our Secretary has typed up the new version of the by-laws. As Editor, I requested that we not re-publish the entire by-laws in the GARS News. I could not find any requirement to do so in either the by-laws or Robert's Rules, and they make rather dry reading.

Copies of the by-laws will be available at GARS meetings, and on the Sci-Atl BBS in the GARS Conference. If you want a current copy, are a paid member and can't make a meeting or don't have a modem, have a friend pick one up at a meeting, or contact Ike, KE4GYM and he can mail you one.

My intentions are to include the items the members want in our newsletter. If you feel we should re-publish the entire revised by-laws every time they are changed, in addition to publishing the proposed changes as required by our rules, please send me a note at my roster address. I will respond to whatever newsletter content the bulk of our members want. ♦

hams who have been meeting their friends at the same time and day for years.

Despite their name, HF roundtables do not usually take turns "going around the table" as is the custom on 2-meter repeaters. When someone has something to contribute to the discussion, or a question about the subject at hand, they simply jump in and voice it.

This doesn't mean YOU should jump into a group of strangers and expect them to listen to what your opinion of their topic is! Why would they care what you think, they don't know you!

Treat these groups as you would groups talking at a party. You wouldn't interrupt 15 strangers in a group at a party by barging in amongst them and saying "I am so-and-so and I think..." (at least I hope you wouldn't). They would look at you like you have two heads! What do you really do? How can you get a foot in the door with these groups?

Listen to their conversation, and make notes of the participants names, calls and locations. When the conversation comes to a subject you are interested in, where you can hear one of the active members well enough that he should be able to hear you, call him. Introduce yourself, and explain your interest.

Have the courtesy to ask the group if you are being heard well enough by most of the members to participate. This is important! Just because you can hear them doesn't mean they can hear you! Most roundtable regulars run high power, and rightly so.

The FCC says use the minimum power for reliable communications, right? Well roundtables, with participants all over the country almost always need to run power so that the person talking can be heard by all. And unless you live in Miami or Maine, beams are lousy for roundtables too. It is hard to make them radiate in all directions.

Asking a question is always a good way to break the ice. Hams just can't help but give advise to people who ask, or even people who don't. It's their nature and possibly a side effect of radiation exposure to try to answer all

ROOKIE RADIO UPDATE

by Cheryl McClure, KE4JKM

HOWIELAB

HowieLab got off to a roaring start Saturday, May 21. We began by taking inventory of all the Heathkit signal tracer parts. We learned to use both analog and digital meters to double check resistor color codes. Before soldering the resistors to the printed circuit board, Howie let us practice on some spare parts. By the time we finished all the resistors and diodes, we were semi-experts! As an added bonus, Howie threw in a demonstration of his HF SWR meter and a tour of his antenna farm. Quite impressive!

The next class is scheduled for 1 PM on Saturday, June 4th. We will begin installing transistors, capacitors and knobs. By the time this newsletter comes out, we will be scheduled for the next HowieLab. If you want to attend, give me a call (995-5159). I'll give you the date and send you a map to Howie's house. Join the fun!

FRIENDSHIP AWARD

Would you like to earn an award for chatting on 2 meters? Ike, KE4GYM, has told me about the Friendship Award which can be earned from ARRL after talking to only 26 ham operators. You must have one call sign ending in A, one ending in B and so on to Z. You are not restricted to 2 meters. Any frequency will do. You must be an ARRL member. Ike has some of the application forms. I will get a few from him at the next meeting, so let me know if you want to try for this award.

CW CLASSES

I have had a request for a beginning CW class. Howie originally offered to help but had to withdraw since he is on the VE team. Does anyone else have any ideas of how we can accomplish this? Most of the rookies only have 2 meter equipment, so they can't listen to HF bands for practice. Twice weekly code practice on the repeater is great for finding out how well you're progressing, but we need a class for drills and coaching. Ideas, anyone? ♦

technical questions, even those they don't know anything about them.

Here is an example of a nearly sure-fire way to enter a roundtable. Stations U, V, X and Y are discussing the merits of an antenna. You hear station X the best, so at a lull in the action, you give it your best shot:

You- "X5XX this is AD4OD."

He- "AD4OD, go ahead, this is X5XX."

You- "Hi John, this Dean in Suwanee Georgia and my call is AD4OD. If your group is hearing me well enough, I'd like to join in. I am thinking about building an antenna and feel like I could learn about it from you guys."

He- "OK, Dean, welcome to our group. Can everybody hear AD4OD in Ga? His name is Dean."

You are in, simple. You introduced yourself briefly. You demonstrated that you have been listening (you called him by name and knew they were talking about antennas), and you had the decency to ask if the group could all hear you.

If what you really wanted was a signal report, you will probably now get four without even asking for one! If he doesn't come back to you, well that's a signal report too!

If they seem willing to let you in,

but can't hear you, have the courtesy to just listen since you are not being heard well and wait for a night when propagation is in your favor. You will win a lot of friends like that. If you find you like roundtables, start looking for a good deal on an amplifier.

Nets are much easier. Once you determine their purpose is one that applies to you, simply check in. If you can't figure out by listening to the net the proper procedure of joining, try asking one of your friends locally if they know anything about it.

Another way is to listen until the net is over, and then call one of the last stations you heard well. One or more net members will come back to you with helpful suggestions.

One other consideration: If you are ever in a QSO on 40 or 80 meters, and people start tuning up on you and making noise, that is a sure sign that a group is about to meet. Do the world a favor and ask, and if that is that case be courteous and move off.

Yes, you were there first, but it is much easier for people in QSO to move off than for people who are trying to find a net or roundtable. If common courtesy is so common, why are we so surprised when we encounter it?

Listen, Listen Listen. ♦

"COOKING" ON CW

Here is some text copied from the GARS CW practice on Tuesday, 5-13. This might be part of the reason you see more thick hams than thin ones. Of course with a nickname like "Hams", a little girth should be expected. Recipe courtesy of AD4LY & W4IFE.

13 WPM VV DE KD4KCR - HERE IS THE RECIPE FOR THE FRENCH COCONUT PIE - 1 - 10 INCH PIE SHELL, COMBINE THE FOLLOWING. - - 1 CUP OF COCONUT, SHREDDED, 3 EGGS BEATEN WITH 1 AND 1/4 CUP OF SUGAR AND 1/4 CUP BUTTERMILK - - 1/2 STICK MARGARINE, 1 TSP. VANILLA FLAVORING. POUR IN TO PIE SHELL - - HEAT OVEN TO 375, COOK FOR 10 MINUTES. REDUCE TEMP TO 325 AND BAKE FOR 35 TO 40 MIN. THATS IT DE AD4LY/KD4KCR SK

THE POWER OF THE PEN OR THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A BEAR

by Dean Matthews, AD4OD

While we are on roundtables (see the previous article), in 1991, the very existence of the 40 meter roundtable I enjoy the most was threatened. This group had been meeting daily at the same time and place for over 20 years! And now, they were being accosted by a bear - Radio Moscow.

As everyone is aware, we share several bands with other interests. Commercial broadcast stations are a real problem on 40 meters. I don't know if there is any regulations about where these stations are supposed to be, they just seem to plop down where ever they feel, turn on their mega-megawatt transmitters and let'er rip.

One night, Radio Moscow sets up camp with a HUGE signal just 2 kc away... too close. It is not easy to move a net. Hundreds of people look in the same place and at the same time, and if they don't find your group then off to some other frequency and poof, no more net.

What to do? A mere complaint wouldn't even get read. What do they care about the listening habits of some hams in the U.S.?

Now I can't prove this was the real reason they moved, but they did move. I sent the following letter, passed it around about 20 of the roundtable members around the country who made versions of their own along the same lines, and a few weeks later the bear was gone. I picked the suggested frequency because it was right on top of some guys that constantly splattered us with illegal hi-power amps and over-gained microphones. I think the logic of the following letter is self-explanatory:

(continued on next page)

Dean Matthews
2465 Hwy 317
Suwanee, Georgia U.S.A. 30174

27 November, 1991

Programming Director
Radio Moscow North American Services
Pyatnitskaya Ulitsa 25
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Sir,

I am a shortwave listener in the southeast portion of the United States of America. Not to long ago you began broadcasting in the evenings (approximately 0000 to 0500 UTC) on 7.240 Mhz.

The problem is that you have selected a frequency which is extremely crowded in this portion of the world making it virtually impossible to receive your service with any reliability.

I have discussed this problem with fellow shortwave listeners in different parts of our country and found that they are experiencing the same problem. Broadcast signals from South America combined with immensely powerful Amateur Radio signals blanket your service completely.

It seems a shame to go to all trouble and expense of preparing and broadcasting your service to a frequency on which you can not be heard. I polled my fellow shortwave listener friends around the country and they all concurred that 7.245 Mhz would be a much better choice of frequencies, as it is completely clear of interference during these hours.

The areas I have contacted about the problem and proposed solution frequencies include Georgia, Nevada, Idaho, Colorado, Michigan, Louisiana, Iowa, Florida, Illinois, and California and as you can see, the problem is fairly universal in our country.

I hope this information is of help to you.

Sincerely,
Dean Matthews

(Skin a Bear, Continued)

Like I said, they moved. They moved to the exact frequency we suggested, and they ran off the riffraff that had been hanging out their.

They sent me a real nice hand typed and signed letter that appeared to be typed on an ancient manual typewriter, stating their concern and that their technical department was looking into it.

To this day, two or three times a year, I get a nice program guide and frequency schedule for all their worldwide broadcasts in English.

I suppose I will carry to my grave the thought that the whole scheme just might have worked exactly as planned.

You just never know. ♦

NOTHING! All checked out but still I was not receiving much if anything.

HAD RUSSIA ATTACKED THE U.S. AND DESTROYED EVERYTHING AND I WAS UNAWARE BECAUSE I WAS IN CEDARTOWN... OUT IN THE "BOONIES"?

I checked the TV. Reception was down somewhat but otherwise okay. I sighed with relief because back in those days, we all lived in fear of a "sneak attack" from the Russians. All seemed okay.

What to do? I called Jimmy, KN4AEK, and asked if he had noticed the strange quietness. Since he had not been on air, he was unaware. At my request, he fired up his Viking II and National receiver. He, too, heard very, very little. He became worried, too.

Although we only lived about 2 miles from each other, we could barely hear each other on 40 meters! His signal was about 1/4th what it should be. We tried 80 meter CW. Still his signal, while better than 40 meter CW, was down considerably. Being relatively new to Amateur Radio, we could only speculate. We decided that the ionosphere had disappeared and Ham Radio was no more! Maybe it was because of all the Atom bomb tests? The world would never be the same. What would I do with my gear... I pondered. I rode my bike to Jimmy's. Maybe his father (W4IMQ) would know about this strange phenomenon and could explain it when he arrived home from work.

THE DAY THE HAM BANDS DIED

by Jud Whatley, W4NZJ

Hearing a recent QSO on the repeater between Ron (K4HRB) and Duane (KD4KCR) about the recent solar storms and their impact on Ham communications reminded me of a situation which happened in 1958 while I was in Junior High school in Cedartown. It was like clock work... I always came home and immediately turned on my separate transmitter and receiver to allow them to warm up and stabilize so I could jump on 40 meter CW.

This particular afternoon, all seemed in order until I turned up the volume on my Heath Mohawk (RX-1) receiver. I HEARD NOTHING!

Like any Ham, I immediately check my speaker and then my antenna. I still heard very, very faint signals. Had my antenna fallen? I went outside but my doublet which was fed with 300 ohm line seemed okay. I fired up the Viking Valiant. Power output seemed okay according to my "Matchbox" tuner. So... my antenna checked out okay.

AAahhh! My antenna connections to the receiver, the antenna relay or my receive RF amp tube had gone bad. So I checked them all. Still nothing! I was perplexed. I tuned 75 and 80 meters.... nothing! I tuned 20, 15, 11, (it was still a Ham Band then) and 10 meters.

At last.... Jimmy's Dad arrived. We both ran up to him yelling and screaming that the Ham Bands had died for no reason. He smiled and listened to his receiver for a few moments. He, too, checked the antenna, etc. Then leaning back and smiling, he informed us that these conditions must be due to "irregular solar activity". He had experienced this in the 40's but never to this extent!

He said not to worry and that everything would "normalize" soon.

It took three (3) whole days for signals to start reappearing! It was truly weird and scary. It was the talk of the bands! Articles appeared in QST about this event. It seems that some Hams, thinking their gear was not working properly, had their gear checked at local repair stores or sent them in for repair while a few purchased new gear!

Those three days caused panic among the ranks of Hams, including Jimmy and I. Our radio world had been turned upside down for three (3) whole miserable days! But, as Jimmy's Dad had predicted, the bands slowly returned to normal. I shall never forget those days that the Ham Bands died and my whole world turned upside down! ♦

Several Months back Steve, AD4LY, who is visually impaired, decided he would walk to the neighborhood convenience store. While waiting in line at the checkout, someone started frisking him! Without saying a word, this person actually tried to put his hand in Steve's pocket!

Imagine how you would feel if this was done to you, then try to imagine how it would feel if you couldn't see the person accosting you!

Steve pushed away the person and asked what they were looking for. It was a locally known "burned out junkie" looking for change. Steve told him he had no change, thinking that maybe the guy would leave him alone.

He had heard the individual leave the store on a bicycle just before Steve himself left, and was very ill at ease, not knowing what this person might do or where he was.

Steve had his HT with him. He called the GARS repeater for someone to talk to on the walk home. Dean, AD4OD in Suwanee answered his call and tried to calm him as he walked home. Pickett, AD4S who had been in a packet QSO with Dean was also listening to their conversation, and as Steve related his story, the nervousness he felt was quite evident in his voice.

As Steve approached his mailbox, over his HT he heard "Steve don't light that cigarette!", and he knew that Pickett was right behind him. Pickett had quietly jumped in his car and followed Steve home to insure his safe arrival.

After it was all over, Steve told his wife, Caroline, what had happened and it meant so much to her that she was moved to tears.

It is great to be a member of a ham club where members care about and help each other so much. ♦



GARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (SHORT FORM)

Detach and Mail

Amateur Callsign: _____ Class: _____ Expires: ___/___/___ Date of Birth: ___/___/___

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: ___ - ___ Work-Phone: ___ - ___ Fax-Phone: ___ - ___

Type of membership: []-Individual []-Family ARRL Member? Y/N ___ Life? Y/N ___

Additional members for Family Memberships:

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____ CLASS (circle 1) _____ BIRTH DATE ARRL Y/N _____ LIFE? Y/N _____

E A G T + T N ___/___/___ Y/N Y/N

E A G T + T N ___/___/___ Y/N Y/N

E A G T + T N ___/___/___ Y/N Y/N

Check Interests:

[]-Class instruction []-Field Day operation []-Repeater maintenance []-Gars club booth staffing []-Community events
 []-Emergency []-Administrative []-Fund raisers

[]Other _____

Dues: April 1 to Sept 30

\$25.00 for Individual Memberships

\$35.00 for Family Memberships

From Oct. 1 to Dec. 31:

\$12.50 for Individual Membership

\$17.50 for Family Memberships

From Jan 1 to March 3:

\$6.25 for Individual Membership

\$8.75 for Family Memberships



Atlanta Metro Area VE/VEC Examination Schedules From SERA Repeater Journal and other sources. Published as a service to its members, GARS assumes no responsibility for errors or schedule changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in.

1st Sunday - Lawrenceville W5YI-VEC - Jackson EMC
461 Swanson Rd - Lawrenceville - 2:00PM
Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 962-9582

1st Monday - Roswell CA-VEC 7:45PM
St Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell Rd - Marietta
Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758

1st Saturday - Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt Bldg
7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro - 9:00AM
George White, KN4NG 361-6850

2nd Sundays - First Presbyterian Church
183 West Main Street, Cartersville 3:00PM
Mark Swicord, KD4EYF - 975-1309

2nd Tuesday - Walton EMC 7:00PM
3645 - Lenora Church Rd, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759

2nd Saturday - Stn Mtn CA-VEC 8:30AM
Stone Mountain-Methodist Church
Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160

3rd Saturdays - Marietta First United Methodist Church
56 Whitlock Ave, Room 319 - 9:00AM
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171

4th Sunday N Atlanta ARRL-VEC - Episcopal Church of the Atonement
2:30PM Highpoint Rd, Atlanta
John King, AB4GK - 381-5291

4th Friday GARS W5YI-VEC - 7:00PM - St John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Rd, Lilburn
Howie Gould, W4NMF 921-8362 Headphones!

HAMFEST CALENDAR

June	11 .. Hamfest - Winston-Salem NC
June	11 .. Athens R/C Hamnic-Tailgate - Athens GA
June	18 .. TN State ARRL Convention - Nashville, TN
June	18-19 Albany ARC Hamfest - Albany, GA
July	9 .. "Firecracker" Hamfest - Salisbury, NC
July	23-24 Atl Radio Club Hamfest - Atlanta.
July	30 .. WCARS Hamfest - Asheville, NC
August	6 .. Central Ga Hamfest- Perry, GA
August	20-21 Hamfest - Huntsville, AL
August	27 .. Confed. Sig. Corps. Hfest - Madison, GA

?=Date not confirmed. Several entries taken from SERA Journal.
Georgia locations are bold, Nearby locations are bold and underlined

JUNE 16th
GARS MEETING
AT
RYAN'S STEAK HOUSE
on Hwy 120

see page 1



P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Ga 30226

P=389 (+) Number SD=4482 Next Dues: 04/01/95



Come to the GARS Field Day Event - June 25 & 26 at Lawrenceville City Park (Rhodes Park)
Contact the Field Day Chairman, John Scott - KD4VHG at 979-0995 for information or to volunteer equipment or services.